

appreciate the amount of information that he is rendering available. What I *do* object to in the present connection is the utterance of sweeping generalizations based on the examination and comparison of a limited number of local forms, and the assumption that certain questions have been definitely answered when we are really just beginning to gather in the facts that shall make such answer possible.

*Festina lente* is a good motto. When we know the anatomy (using the term in its broadest sense) of every well-marked form among the Swifts and Humming-birds, when the embryology of the two groups has been thoroughly worked out, when we are agreed as to what are morphological and what purely adaptive characters, then, and only then, can we with some degree of certainty say what are the exact relations between these two highly specialized forms.

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XXXV.—*On the Occurrence of White's Thrush in European Russia.* By Dr. M. MENZBIER, Professor in the University of Moscow.

THE life-history and geographical distribution of White's Ground-Thrush (*Turdus varius*) being so insufficiently known, I have endeavoured to procure some facts for the elucidation of this question. Contrary to the opinion of Mr. Seeböhm that the western range of this species in summer is probably limited to the watershed of the Yenisei and the Lena, I have always been of opinion that White's Ground-Thrush is distributed in the summer throughout the whole wooded districts of Siberia. My conviction was based on the fact that this species is much too common in Western Europe to be only an accidental straggler from Eastern Siberia. Moreover, it is very remarkable that not a single occurrence of White's Ground-Thrush from any part of Russia has been recorded, though it without doubt migrates to Western Europe through our country. For many years I have sought for White's Ground-Thrush among skins of the Missel-Thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*) from various parts of Russia, but in vain. At last, during my visit to Siberia

in 1890, I was told by Prof. Kovtsov, of Tiumen, that White's Ground-Thrush is a rare straggler to the southern portion of the Government of Tobolsk, and is common in the northern part of the Province of Admalinsk, whence a skin was presented to me for identification. I have now the pleasure of making known the fact that *Turdus varius* probably breeds in the Ural Mountains. In the year 1891 a young zoologist, Mr. Sushkin, was sent by the Imperial Society of Naturalists of Moscow to collect birds in the Government of Ufa. A large series of about 900 skins and many skeletons were brought home by this gentleman from his expedition, and the greatest prize of this collection was a beautiful skin of White's Ground-Thrush received by Mr. Sushkin from a sportsman who had the good fortune to secure it *in July* of 1887 in the vicinity of the town of Zlatoust. Unfortunately the sex of this specimen, which was regarded by the sportsman as nothing more than a pretty skin of the Missel-Thrush, was undetermined. A second specimen of White's Ground-Thrush obtained in Russia is a female, procured in August 1891 near Perm. The fortunate possessor of this skin, a well-known explorer of the Government of Perm, Mr. Teplouchov, has sent it to me for identification. A third specimen of this Thrush was obtained *in August* 1892 in the fir-forests, at a distance of twenty versts from Krasno-Ufinsk (Government of Perm), by a Tartar, and was purchased in the flesh by Mr. Knüpfer, a teacher in the Industrial School in that town. Thanks to Mr. Knüpfer, this skin is now in my possession. Judging from the dates of the occurrences of the first and third specimens, I think that White's Ground-Thrush probably breeds in the woods of the Ural Mountains. But, however this may be, we have now at any rate a right to include *Turdus varius* in the list of Russian birds.